

Survey # F-4-120

Approximate date September 14, 1862

D. Rent House

Street Address: 1741 Dahlgren Road

Town, State Middletown, MD

private X, public

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. The Daniel Rent House is situated in a sharp bend of Dahlgren Road just north of Turner's Hill. Probably built in the mid 19th century, of log construction, the house was later enlarged as indicated by a break in the roof line and in the window pattern. Set into the sloping ground of the mountainside, it is 1 1/2 stories in height at the front or west elevation, which faces onto Dahlgren Road, and 2 1/2 stories high at the rear or east elevation with an exposed cellar wall. The eastern elevation of the house afforded a clear view of the advance of General Hatch's Division of General Hooker's I Corps, as they made their way toward Turners Gap which was held by Confederates under Generals D.H. Hill and James Longstreet. The Rent House is significant for its role in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain which occurred just three days before the larger Battle of Antietam. The Rent property was present along a narrow mountain road and was in the path of General John P. Hatch's advance to Turner's Gap from the north side of the National Road. General Hatch led a division of General Joseph Hooker's I Corps. Secondly, the house is significant as an example of 19th century vernacular log architecture of the modest type used by occupants of the small hill farms that subsisted on the slopes of South Mountain.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace
Woodward-Clyde
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-120

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic D. Rent House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1741 Dahlgren Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James T. Benedict

street & number 1741 Dahlgren Road telephone no.: 301-293-2486

city, town Middletown state and zip code MD 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber 1110

street & number 100 West Patrick Street Folio 748

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-128

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The D. Rent House is situated in a sharp bend of Dahlgren Road just north of Turner's Hill. Probably built in the mid 19th century, of log construction, the house was later enlarged as indicated by a break in the roof line and in the window pattern. Set into the sloping ground of the mountainside, it is 1 1/2 stories in height at the front or west elevation, which faces onto Dahlgren Road, and 2 1/2 stories high at the rear or east elevation with an exposed cellar wall. The eastern elevation of the house afforded a clear view of the advance of General Hatch's Division of General Hooker's I Corps, as they made their way toward Turners Gap which was held by Confederates under Generals D.H. Hill and James Longstreet.

The 1 1/2 story west elevation of the house has five bays, two doors, and three two over two replacement windows. Three 1/2 story windows show just between the eaves and the porch roof. The openings are grouped with three bays toward the north end of the house and two toward the south end. There are only three openings at the upper half story, above the windows and none above the doors. The front porch has a concrete deck, hipped roof and is supported with square posts. The house is covered with German siding. The roof is composite material. The foundation which is raised on the east elevation is of limestone. The windows in the stone level are one six over six sash and one four over four, and the doors have two panels. The east elevation also has a two story porch of wood and a brick deck addition at ground level.

A limestone bank barn foundation hidden by trees and undergrowth is also on the property. Currently the property contains 2 1/2 acres, although it originally may have been one of the hill farms that occupied the ravines of South Mountain.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	

Specific dates September 14, 1862 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Daniel Rent House is significant for its role in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862, just three days before the larger Battle of Antietam. The Rent property was present along a narrow mountain road and was in the path of General John P. Hatch's advance to Turner's Gap from the north side of the National Road. General Hatch led a division of General Joseph Hooker's I Corps. Secondly, the house is significant as an example of 19th century vernacular log architecture of the modest type used by occupants of the small hill farms that subsisted on the slopes of South Mountain.

The Rent property derives its principal significance from its role in the Battle of South Mountain. The Union objective was to gain access to the passes across South Mountain so that Federals could attack the divided and vulnerable Confederate Army in the valley to the west. The Confederates held a thin line of defense under General D.H. Hill at Turner's Gap which was the main Union objective, since the National Road crossed the mountain through this gap. Expecting the pass to be strongly defended, the Federals initiated flanking movements to the north and to the south of the National Road. General Hooker was responsible for the action on the north side of the turnpike, and the men in his command made their way upward along Dahlgren Road and the ravine to its north, and along Frostown further to the north.

"For his advance, Hooker deployed the Divisions of John P. Hatch on the left and George G. Meade on the right, with James Ricketts' Division in reserve. The Yankees found the rocky, heavily timbered slopes hard going, and Robert Rodas' brigade of Alabamans, which did the lion's share of the fighting on this flank, added greatly to their difficulties. Rodas used a heavy skirmish line made up of crack shots from the 12th Alabama to delay Hatch's advance. When the Federals finally cleared away these skirmishers they came up against the main Rebel line posted solidly on high ground in front of them. The fighting was as bitter here as it had been earlier at Fox's Gap, and casualties were heavy on both sides. There was a particularly vicious series of charges and countercharges in a cornfield in which General Hatch was wounded and the opposing lines came as close as thirty feet before they broke apart."¹

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maps from the Civil War show the D. Rent house in the direct center of Hatch's line of advance. Rodas' Alabama

¹Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain: The Battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862," *Blue and Gray*, December-January, 1986-87, p. 18.

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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sharpshooters were posted just north of the house and north of Dahlgren Road on steep ground and the main body of Longstreet's command was behind them and slightly to the west. The house would have been, therefore witness to much of the action. According to local tradition, the house was used as a hospital for wounded Union soldiers.

Daniel Rent acquired the property upon which the house stands from Joshua Purdy on April 21, 1857 (Frederick County Liber ES10, Folio 316). He kept the property for 20 years, selling it to Silas Young in February of 1877 (TG 9/182).

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DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Military

Architecture, landscape architecture and community planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

domestic/single dwelling/residence

agricultural/subsistence/animal facility

Known Design Source: none

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Books

- Hartwig, D. Scott, Civil War Regiments, A Journal of the American Civil War, Vol 5, #3, "Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862". Article entitled "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap", Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, CA, 1997.
- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.
- Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.
- Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam, Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.
- Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.
- Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.
- U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

Manuscripts

- Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.

Maps


- Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.
- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.

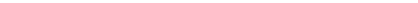
F-4-120

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

B  Zone Easting Northing

D 

H 

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

463 11 SW
UNKSTOWN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°37'30"
39°30'

275000m E

276

277

35' 27

4375000m N

4374

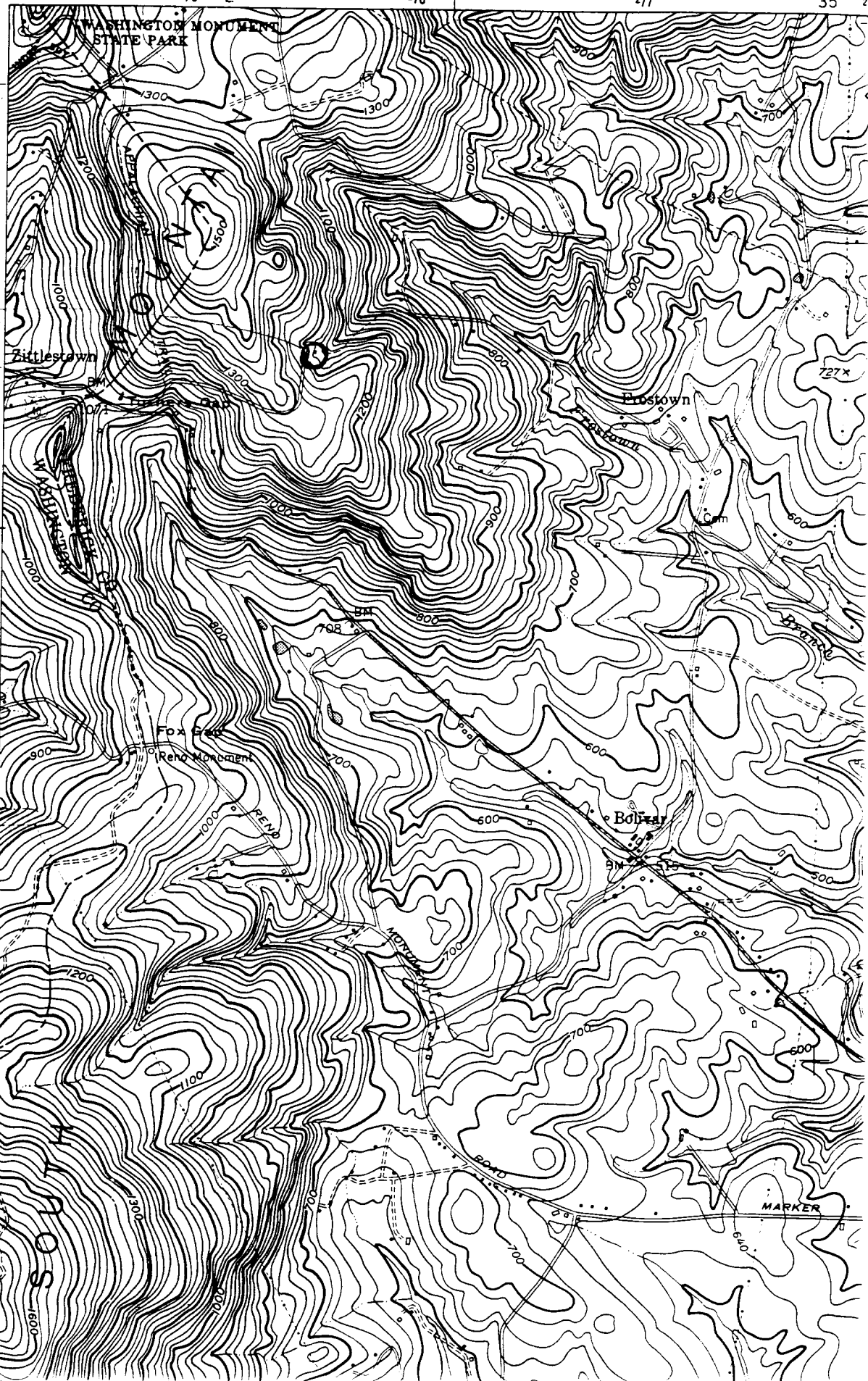
4373

4372

4371

27'30"

4370



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D. Rent House

Middletown Quad



F-4-120

D. Rent House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view east from Dahlgren Rd.

w elevation of house

1/3



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D. Rent House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view southeast from Dahlgren Rd

NW elevation of house and setting

2/3



F-4-120

D. Rent House

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

3 November 1997 / Maryland SHPO

View west from Dahlgren Rd.

Elevation of house

3/3